

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A separating apparatus comprising a separating chamber in which cyclonic separation is able to take place, an inlet to the separating chamber and a shroud comprising a wall having a multiplicity of through-holes forming an outlet from the separating chamber and a lip extending away from the wall, the lip comprising a free distal end projecting into the separating chamber and having a plurality of apertures therethrough.

2. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the separating chamber has a longitudinal axis and the lip extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

3. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the wall and the lip are generally cylindrical.

4. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the apertures are spaced from the through-holes by an imperforate portion of the wall or lip.

5. (Currently Amended) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~the breadth of the~~ an imperforate portion of the wall or lip has a breadth that is at least one tenth of the diameter of the wall.

6. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the breadth of the imperforate portion of the wall or lip is equal to about one tenth of the diameter of the wall.

7. (Currently Amended) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the combined area of the apertures at ~~[[the]]~~ an upstream end thereof is no less than the area of the inlet to the separating chamber.

8. (Currently Amended) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the combined area of the apertures on [[the]] an upstream side thereof is greater than the area of the inlet to the separating chamber.

9. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the length of the lip is at least one tenth of the diameter of the wall of the shroud.

10. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the length of the lip is at least one fifth of the diameter of the wall of the shroud.

11. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the apertures are tapered, the upstream end of each aperture being of smaller cross-sectional area than the downstream end thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a second wall is provided radially inwardly of the lip such that a cavity is formed between the wall, the second wall and the lip.

13. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the length of the lip is at least as great as the distance between the lip and the second wall.

14. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the separating chamber is substantially cylindrical in cross-section so as to form a relatively low-efficiency cyclone.

15. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a tapering cyclone positioned downstream of the shroud.

16. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the tapering cyclone has a higher efficiency than the relatively low-efficiency cyclone.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A vacuum cleaner incorporating the separating apparatus as claimed in claim 4.

19. (Previously Presented) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the apertures are spaced from the through-holes by an imperforate portion of the wall or lip.

20. (Currently Amended) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~the breadth of the~~ an imperforate portion of the wall or lip has a breadth that is at least one tenth of the diameter of the wall.

21. (Currently Amended) The separating apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~the breadth of the~~ an imperforate portion of the wall or lip has a breadth that is equal to about one tenth of the diameter of the wall.